

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 NEA-07 EB-03 IO-03 DODE-00 OES-02

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R 061255Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 851

S E C R E T NAIROBI 6908

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, US

SUBJ: CHIT-CHAT WITH KENYATTA

1. I MET ALONE WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT STATE HOUSE NAKURU ON BOTH JULY 4 AND 5 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT REPORTED SEPTEL. JULY 4 MEETING WAS SHORT; HOWEVER, WHEN PRINCIPAL BUSINESS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ON JULY 5 AND I MADE MOVE TO LEAVE, KENYATTA ASKED ME WHETHER I WOULD LIKE COFFEE. WE SETTLED BACK FOR AN ADDITIONAL 45-MINUTES CHIT-CHAT WHICH I AM REPORTING IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL BECAUSE IT WAS UNIQUE FOR ME AND EXTREMELY RARE FOR ANY FOREIGN DIPLOMAT.

2. ON JULY 4, WHEN WE MET SHORTLY BEFORE 1000, KENYATTA WAS EXHAUSTED, HAVING BEEN UP SINCE 0230 TALKING WITH HIS ADVISERS REGARDING HI-JACKING AND ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION IN UGANDA, PLUS HIS CONCERN THAT AMIN MIGHT RETALIATE AGAINST KENYA. HOWEVER, AT NINE A.M. ON JULY 5 KENYATTA WAS RELAXED, THE MAGNETISM HAD RETURNED TO HIS EYES; HE WAS TALKATIVE, ALERT. HE HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY RISING FROM HIS CHAIR. HE WORE AN OPEN-NECK, BRIGHT RED AND WHITE DESIGNED SPORTS SHIRT, AND TWEEDY JACKET WHICH MATCHED HIS MOOD.

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3. NOTING HIS APPARENT GOOD HEALTH, AND KNOWING OF HIS

RECENT ILL HEALTH, I SAID THAT THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS SHIRT SEEMED TO MATCH THE LOOK ON HIS FACE; I HOPED HE WAS WELL. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS, ADDING (WITH REFERENCE TO HIS RECENT SET-BACK) "ONE MUST FACE THESE THINGS."

4. OUR CONVERSATION, WAITING FOR COFFEE TO COME, TURNED TO KENYAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE DEGREE AND INTERESTS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IN KENYA. I NOTED MY OWN PARTICULAR INTEREST, RESULTING TO A LARGE DEGREE FROM MY NIGERIAN BUSINESS INTERESTS -- WHICH I DESCRIBED -- IN THE 1960S. I NOTED THE EMPHASIS WHICH KENYA -- UNDER PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP -- HAD PLACED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH RESULTANT SUCCESS. LEADING CONVERSATION TO USAID INTERESTS, I HIGHLIGHTED ONE PROJECT ON WHICH I PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE: STUDY ON SEMI-ARID AREA OF BARINGO-KERIO. I POINTED OUT VALUE OF PROJECT IN TERMS OF POPULATION GROWTH, LIMITED AND OVERUSE OF CULTIVATED LAND, NEED FOR EXPANSION, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS. KENYATTA OBSERVED THAT DEVELOPMENT SHOULD MOVE "TOWARD SUDAN" AS BENEFITS "WOULD NOT ONLY BE ECONOMIC BUT POLITICAL AS WELL" BRINGING THE PEOPLE MORE TOGETHER. "I WANT TO SEE IT DEVELOP IN THAT DIRECTION," HE SAID. KENYATTA THEN TOLD ME ABOUT HIS SUCCESSES AT THE NAKURU AGRICULTURAL SHOW, AND -- WITH PRIDE -- INFORMED ME HIS ENTRIES HAD WON PRIZES: 19 FOR CIXRHUXMYE PRESIDENT ABOUT HIS PLANS TO APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON. I SAID I WAS ASKING OUT OF MY OWN CURIOSITY. (COMMENT: THREE WEEKS PREVIOUSLY, MOFA PERMSEC LEONARD KIBINGE HAD SUGGESTED TO ME THAT I ASK KENYATTA SOMETIME; KIBINGE INFORMED ME A LIST HAD BEEN PREPARED A YEAR AGO, BUT HAD NOT REACHED THE TOP OF KENYATTA'S DEEP PILE.) KENYATTA SEEMED SURPRISED KENYA HAD NO AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, SUMMONED MINISTER OF STATE KOINANGE INTO THE ROOM, AND ASKED HIM "WHAT IS MAINA DOING?" KOINANGE EXPLAINED HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. I ADDED THAT KIBINGE HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR FOR FIVE YEARS AND THAT WE THOUGHT HE HAD DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB, BUT THAT HE HAD LEFT NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO. THE PRESIDENT SAID WE WOULD "GET ONE, VERY SOON." HE THEN ASKED ME WHETHER I WOULD LIKE TO MEET HIM BEFORE HE IS CHOSEN, WHICH SET KOINANGE INTO A FIT OF LAUGHTER. I SAID I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET THE NEW

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AMBASSADOR AFTER HE IS APPOINTED. KENYATTA CHARGED KOINANGE TO PURSUE THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS. (COMMENT: AT OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LATER IN THE DAY, I INFORMED KIBINGE WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ON THIS SUBJECT).

7. KOINANGE RETIRED, AND WE CONTINUED. STILL FOLLOWING A SERIOUS LINE, AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RELAXED

OCCASION, I DECIDED TO PROBE KENYATTA'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VISIT OF SECDEF RUMSFELD TO KENYA, AND IN PARTICULAR THE PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN THE EVENT. BY DOING SO, I FELT THE PRESIDENT'S PAST "CONCERN" COULD BE PUT INTO PRESENT PERSPECTIVE. KENYATTA SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS ANNOYED WITH THE PUBLICITY AT THE TIME, HE FEELS THE "NEIGHBORS HAVE BEEN WARNED" AND THAT THIS WAS THE BENEFIT THAT CAME OUT OF IT. HE ADDED AN APPRECIATION FOR MY SUGGESTION AT THE TIME THAT WE ADJOURN THE LARGER FOR A SMALLER, MORE INFORMAL MEETING WITH SECDEF AT SATE HOUSE.

8. TOUCHING INCIDENTALLY ON A COUPLE OF OTHER SUBJECTS, I SAID THAT I HAD ATTENDED LAST WEEK'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION IN THE SEYCHELLES AND HAD ENJOYED SEEING ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO AND MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MWAMUNGA THERE. THAT I HAD TAKEN BOTH ON A TOUR OF THE USAF TRACKING STATION AND LUNCH. KENYATTA APPEARED PARTICULARLY PLEASED.

9. ALTHOUGH KENYATTA APPEARED WILLING TO TALK ON, I MADE A MOVE TO GO, WHICH HE ACCEPTED; I THANKED HIM FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY FORMAL BUSINESS BUT TO TALK INFORMALLY. HE ASKED ME TO GIVE HIS WARM REGARDS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD.  
MARSHALL

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NNN

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